

**Declaration of Civilian Area of
Ranikhet as Municipal Area**

154. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to declare the civilian area of Ranikhet town as a municipal areas; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by when it is likely to be declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

I.A.F. Plane crash in Agra on 23-2-80

155. SHRI FAROOQ ABDULA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 46 Defence personnel were killed in Agra due to one of the worst disasters in the history of Indian Air Force para-dropping exercises on 23rd February, 1980;

(b) whether Government are considering to replace the 'Fair Child Packet' aircraft which is one of the oldest aircraft in the world; and

(c) if not, the main reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) An unfortunate and tragic aircrash occurred in Agra on 22nd February 1980 in which 47 Defence personnel were killed.

(b) and (c). Government have decided to replace the existing transport fleet including the Packets which will be phased out progressively as per schedule.

Pension benefits enjoyed by Ex-servicemen and improvements desired therein

156. SHRI P. J. KURLAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the different pension benefits and other amenities at present enjoyed by ex-servicemen;

(b) have the Government received any representations for improving them in view of the rising cost of living;

(c) if answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) details of the additional/improved benefits, if any, proposed to be provided to the ex-servicemen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C.P.N. SINGH). (a): The following pension benefits and other amenities to ex-servicemen are available:—

(1) Service officers and personnel below officer rank who have rendered a minimum qualifying service of 20 years and 15 years respectively, are entitled to retiring pension, whereas those whose qualifying service is less than the above limits but is at least 10 years in the case of commissioned officers and 5 years in the case of personnel below officer rank, are entitled to service gratuity.

(2) Individuals who are medically boarded out of service are granted disability or invalid pension/gratuity depending upon whether the disability is attributable to service or not.

(2) In addition to relating/disability|invalid pension|gratuity, they are also entitled to death-cum-retirement gratuity at the rate of 1/4th of the emoluments drawn at the time of retirement for each complete half year of service, subject to a maximum of 18-1/2 month's emo-